Docket No.: 2004P01388 PCT/EP2005/051381 Prel. Amdt. dated 09/01/06

Abstract of the Disclosure:

A method and a device allow to detect and optionally to indicate the improper use of a seat. For this purpose, an estimated value of a variable characteristic of a mass that rests on a seating area of a seat is determined depending on at least one force that acts upon the seating area and that is detected by one or more force sensors. The estimated value is found to be reliable or unreliable depending on the oscillation behavior of the measured signal of the at least one force sensor.